

**Emergency Operations Center Situation Report #20**  
**Haiti Earthquake**

**GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- There are 260 registered partners of the Haiti Health Cluster. A revised Flash Appeal for Haiti is being prepared and will be launched on 18 February. Under the revised Flash Appeal, health cluster activities will focus on:
  - Coordination of the health sector response and needs assessment, monitoring and evaluation, in cooperation with national health authorities.
  - Outbreak control and disease surveillance.
  - Water supply and environmental health.
  - Reactivation of basic health care services for a more integrated health system, based on primary health care.
  - Treatment and rehabilitation of injured patients.
  - Availability of essential drugs and medical supplies.
- The Government estimates that over 470,000 people have left Port-au-Prince for outlying departments. Assessments by the MINUSTAH regional offices in the South, Grand Anse, Nippes and the Central Plateau departments confirmed an estimated 15-20 percent increase in the population of the respective departments. Prices of basic commodities, such as rice and sugar, are rising due to the influx of new populations and support to host families is a priority in these areas. Medical institutions are facing a shortage of equipment and stock for emergency care and the number of mobile health centers needs to be expanded, according to MINUSTAH.
- Approximately 43,000 radios have been distributed to people in Port-au-Prince by the US as part of an overall effort to reach the people of Haiti via broadcasting of Haiti public service. Announcements and key health messages (e.g. water sanitation, handling patients, etc.) can also be disseminated using this mode of communication.
- Ten organized sites have been established by the Camp Coordination/Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, hosting over 75,000 people and run by cluster partners that work on improving site conditions. The CCCM cluster has identified 19 priority sites (of the more than 300 spontaneous settlement sites in Port-au-Prince) which host a combined total of 180,000 people for decongestion.
- The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is presently in phase two of its three-phase targeted health sector intervention in Haiti - a transitional period from emergency and specialized care to



Photo: PAHO/WHO

primary health care services (from 5 February to 5 March). To date, over 70 medical and health personnel have been deployed, comprising orthopedic and general surgeons, anesthetists, general practitioners, nurses, emergency medical technicians and orthopedic / plaster technicians. Over 900 new patients have been seen.

- The multi-agency rapid needs assessment (IRA) is being finalized and will be presented to all clusters on Thursday.
- Along the border, surgical activities are giving way rehabilitative care. The following are current statistics from health facilities in the area:
  - Good Samaritan Hospital: 75 patients
  - Cabral Hospital: 4 patients
  - Good Samaritan: 115 patients
  - General Melenciano (Jimaní): 16 patients
  - Bethel Church: 74 people
  - Nutrition Center San Jose: 8
  - Love a Child (Fond Partisi) as of 15 February, has 258 patients in post-operative monitoring care (540 + persons accompanying patients) and 120 Staff. The number of new patients per day, mostly from the USNS Comfort ranges from 20-30 cases. It is expected that in the coming weeks, the number of people in "Love Child", over a thousand.
  - Camp Hope: 125 people

#### **PAHO/WHO RESPONSE**

- During this post-disaster emergency, the following agreement was reached to optimize the distribution of medicines and medical supplies to the different beneficiary institutions and to guarantee the availability of medicines for the most vulnerable population:
  - Public health institutions and Departmental Supply Centers (CDAI) shall have access to medicines and medical equipment at no cost through PROMESS; the Ministry of Public Health and Population has made a commitment to guaranteeing that these medical products shall be free to all public health facilities throughout the nation's territory until 12 April 2010;
  - Health services, including mobile clinics in camps for displaced persons and spontaneous settlements, that are not dependent on any international nongovernmental organization (NGO) and are accredited by the Ministry of Public Health and Population shall also benefit from free medicines and medical supplies;
  - Public health facilities that have received free medicines shall be subject to periodic evaluations;
  - International organizations, international NGOs, national NGOs, and charitable and religious organizations authorized to operate by the Ministry of Public Health and Population shall be considered qualified to obtain supplies from PROMESS and should defray the cost of the medicines under the payment modalities in effect prior to the disaster of 12 January;
  - Medicines and medical supplies received by PAHO as donations shall be distributed at no cost to public health facilities through PROMESS. Such donations shall conform to the quality standards established by PAHO/WHO.

- A PAHO/WHO expert in water and sanitation reports that the WASH component in the Situation Room in the Provincial Health Directorate in Jimani is being strengthened and monitoring of water quality continues in health facilities along the border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. A permanent water aqueduct was installed in Buen Samaritano and the water uptake capacity was increased in General Melenciano Hospital. Latrines and septic tanks in shelters and make shift health facilities are also being cleaned daily.
- In the Dominican Republic, the process of rapid rehabilitation of post-operative patients is advancing, and progress has been made in training and increasing local capacity of staff.
- PAHO/WHO has been working with national authorities to improve mental health services, with efforts underway to complete a mental health assessment which will inform the development of a preliminary plan of action for the short, medium and long term.
- PAHO/WHO is in the process of procuring ten mobile clinics, in response to the needs identified by the Haitian Government. Dialogue is also continuing in relation to the design of the mobile clinics, location and specific areas of health services network which they will cover.
- A hospital engineer and an X-Ray machine equipment expert are being deployed today to support the installation of equipment and supplies (x-ray films, etc.) in eight hospitals and health centers in Haiti. The experts will also train the operators of the equipment.
- PAHO/WHO is working with US Health and Human Services and Haiti's Ministry of Health to establish information on health facilities' capacity and operational status using a new software developed for the emergency.

For further information on the situation in Haiti,  
please go to [www.paho.org/disasters](http://www.paho.org/disasters) and <http://twitter.com/pahoecoc>